

# St Mary's News

April 22nd 2013

[www.stmarys.bryanston.net](http://www.stmarys.bryanston.net)

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## Attendance

Well done to Year 4, who had the best attendance for the two terms from Christmas to Easter. There was lots of illness in school over that period, staff as well as pupils, and I was amazed at how high the attendance figures were for most classes; and well over 40 children with 100% attendance for that period.

Year 4: **96.7%**  
Year 2: **96.3%**  
Year 3: **96.2%**  
Year 5: **96.1%**  
Year 6: **94.2%**  
Year 1: **93.7%**  
F2: **93.3%**

## Parent Questionnaire

Last week I reminded everyone about the 'Parent View' website, where parents can register and express their views about the school. I strongly encourage all parents to register on this site.

However, we have also prepared our own short survey for parents and you have until the end of this week to complete it and drop it in the box on the Office counter. I know we have asked you all to complete quite a detailed

questionnaire recently on your family's reading habits and apologise for asking you to complete another one, but this gives us a snapshot of how we are doing at this moment in time and we can compare it with the last, similar, questionnaire we sent out to parents about 18 months ago.

The results from these surveys do change what happens in school. The last survey flagged up that we could celebrate our diversity better and, even though this was literally a single response, we realised that it was valid and so there are now a lot more notice boards around the school celebrating our cultural diversity. There were also a small number of responses that suggested we could communicate better and as a result of that all classes now have notice boards, we pub-

lish our newsletter items to a separate website that also feeds into our main school website and we set up a Twitter account. We are also using our email system to distribute this newsletter more widely.

It was a pupil survey over three years ago now that drew our attention to the playground entrance and the need to improve it - which we did this year (once we'd raised the money!)

The point I am trying to make is that your views, and your children's views, do change things - so, please answer the 11 questions, comment if you want to, and return your questionnaire before Friday.



*Year 1 had a great day with their 'Deckchair Dreams' printing workshop last week.*

**ART EXHIBITION  
THIS WEEK**



*Peter Hadfield*

## School Meals Meeting

Thank you to everyone who came along to the meeting about school meals last week. It was good to see so many people from the Local Authority and from the school meals contractors (Chartwell's) there to explain what happened and answer parents' questions. Thanks, also, to Len Clark, our Chair of Governors, for chairing the meeting.

### Colin Daddow

Colin was a long-standing volunteer at St Mary's, listening to children read at lunch times and helping in our school garden as well as supporting the school in many other ways - he looked the part in a red suit and white beard at Christmas on more than one occasion! Sadly, Colin died just before Easter having been ill for several months. The school are intending to remember him by planting a flowering shrub in the school's front garden. If you knew Colin and would like to make a contribution towards this, please see Tara or Breeda in the school office. Any money left over will be donated to Cancer Research.

## Art Exhibition

Our Art Exhibition will be available for viewing on Wednesday and Thursday this week. Everyone should have received a separate letter about this, explaining when it is open. The children and staff have worked very hard on this, linking the art work with a literacy focus, and we hope as many of you as possible will be able to come and

enjoy it.

I'd like to thank the many parent volunteers from our Friends Association who have given their time to cut things up and stick things down over the last week too!

Thank you to Sian Rickett, who coordinated the Literacy side of this. A special thank you, though, has to go to Sonia Bell, our Art Coordinator, who has pulled all of this work together for us.

## Congratulations!

I have to say congratulations to Libby Granite, our acting Deputy Headteacher, who ran in her first marathon yesterday, raising a lot of money for her chosen charity. Libby finished with a smile on her face and still running, according to the staff who were there a mile from the finishing line; I think she might be a bit stiff today, though!

Well done!

## Headteacher Vacancy

I just wanted to let everyone know that the job was re-advertised over the Easter holiday and the closing date for applications is 7th May.

We've shown one person around already, another is coming this week and we also have an application from someone working outside London.

Every time I show people around school at the moment the children (especially the younger ones) automatically ask the visitor if they are our

new headteacher!

The papers are, as before, all on our school website - click on the 'Job Vacancies' tab - if you're interested in seeing what the job description, person specification, etc, look like.

## What's On This Week

- Wednesday and Thursday: Art Exhibition (see last week's letter for details)
- Wednesday: Year 3 and Year 4 to the library
- Thursday: F2 to the library
- Friday: Foundation Stage to the Science Museum
- Friday: Year 3 assembly at 2.30

## School Dates

- Wednesday, 24th April: Art Exhibition
- Thursday, 2nd May: Class Photographs
- Monday, 6th May: Bank Holiday
- Week of 13th May: Year 6 SATs Week
- Thursday, 23rd May: Church Service at 9.30 (in church)
- Friday, 24th May: Last day of Term 5 (please collect children at 1.15)
- **TUESDAY**, 4th June: First day of Term 6